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THE UNCANN

X-MEN

**THE MUIR
ISLAND
SAGA**



PYRRHIC VICTORY!

STAN LEE PRESENTS
X-MEN AND X-FACTOR
IN A STORY WHICH WILL
CHANGE BOTH TEAMS
FOREVER--

THE
CONCLUSION OF THE
**SHADOW KING
SAGA!**

THERE ISN'T MUCH LEFT
OF MUIR ISLAND.

IT EXPLODED
LESS THAN AN
HOUR AGO,
TORN APART BY
MY SON, DAVID
HALLER--

-- THE
TELEKINETIC,
TELEPATHIC
AND PYROTIC
MUTANT
KNOWN AS
LEGION--

-- WHOSE FRAIL
MIND WAS
POSSESSED BY
THE SHADOW
KING-- A BEING
OF PURE MIND
ENERGY I
HAVE SWORN
TO DESTROY.

PROFESSOR XAVIER--
PSYCHOMETRIC READINGS
ARE BLOWING MY
GAUGES--

--FROM A PSYCHIC
STANDPOINT, THIS
PLACE IS HOTTER
THAN CHERNOBYL!

I KNOW,
AGENT
DeMARCO.
OUR SHIELD
PSI-SUITS ARE
THE ONLY THINGS
PROTECTING US
FROM THE
MENTAL
BARRAGE.

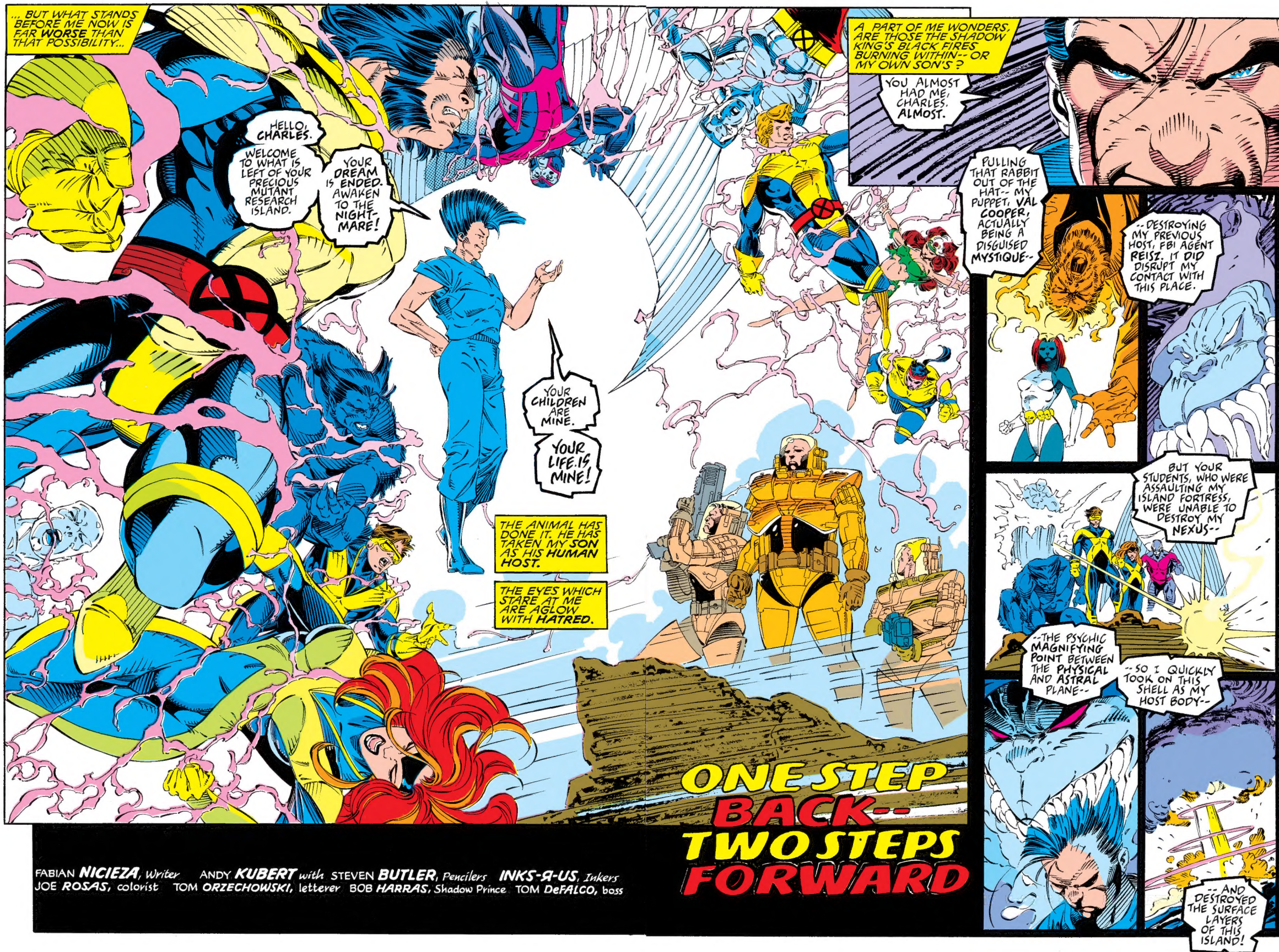
THE SHIELD AGENTS
ARE THE CREAM OF
THEIR ESPER UNIT.
TO ME, THEY ARE
BRAVE MEN,
GOOD MEN.

TO THE SHADOW
KING, THEY WILL
BE NOTHING BUT
CANNON FODDER.
I AM CERTAIN.

COMING
HERE, I HAD
EXPECTED
MY WORST
FEARS
WOULD BE
CONFIRMED--

--THAT ALL OF MY STUDENTS,
X-MEN AND X-FACTOR ALIKE,
WOULD BE DEAD FROM THE
EXPLOSION--

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... BUT WHAT STANDS BEFORE ME NOW IS FAR WORSE THAN THAT POSSIBILITY...

HELLO, CHARLES.

WELCOME TO WHAT IS LEFT OF YOUR PRECIOUS MUTANT RESEARCH ISLAND.

YOUR DREAM IS ENDED. AWAKEN TO THE NIGHTMARE!

YOUR CHILDREN ARE MINE.

YOUR LIFE IS MINE!

THE ANIMAL HAS DONE IT. HE HAS TAKEN MY SON AS HIS HUMAN HOST.

THE EYES WHICH STARE AT ME ARE AGLOW WITH HATRED.

A PART OF ME WONDERS, ARE THOSE THE SHADOW KING'S BLACK FIRES BURNING WITHIN-- OR MY OWN SON'S?

YOU ALMOST HAD ME, CHARLES. ALMOST.

PULLING THAT RABBIT OUT OF THE HAT-- MY PUPPET, VAL COOPER, ACTUALLY BEING A DISGUISED MYSTIQUE--

-- DESTROYING MY PREVIOUS HOST, FBI AGENT REISZ. IT DID DISRUPT MY CONTACT WITH THIS PLACE.

BUT YOUR STUDENTS, WHO WERE ASSAULTING MY ISLAND FORTRESS, WERE UNABLE TO DESTROY MY NEXUS--

--THE PSYCHIC MAGNIFYING POINT BETWEEN THE PHYSICAL AND ASTRAL PLANE--

--SO I QUICKLY TOOK ON THIS SHELL AS MY HOST BODY--

-- AND DESTROYED THE SURFACE LAYERS OF THIS ISLAND!

**ONE STEP
BACK--
TWO STEPS
FORWARD**

FABIAN NICIEZA, Writer ANDY KUBERT with STEVEN BUTLER, Pencilers INKS-A-US, Inkers
JOE ROSAS, colorist TOM ORZECOWSKI, letterer BOB HARRAS, Shadow Prince. TOM DeFALCO, boss



YOUR CHILDREN SURVIVED-- PROTECTED BY THAT COW JEAN GREY'S TELEKINETIC SHIELDS--

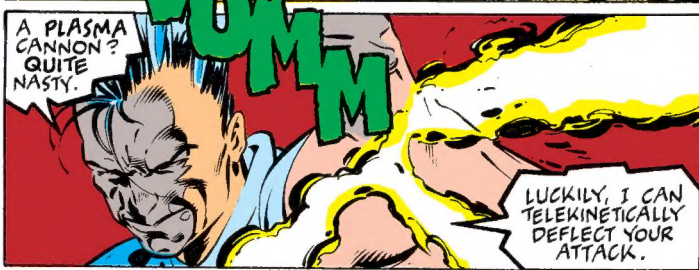
--BUT SO MUCH THE BETTER, CHARLES--

--FOR NOW I HAVE YOU ALL, CHILDREN AND FATHER-- MINE FOR THE KILLING!



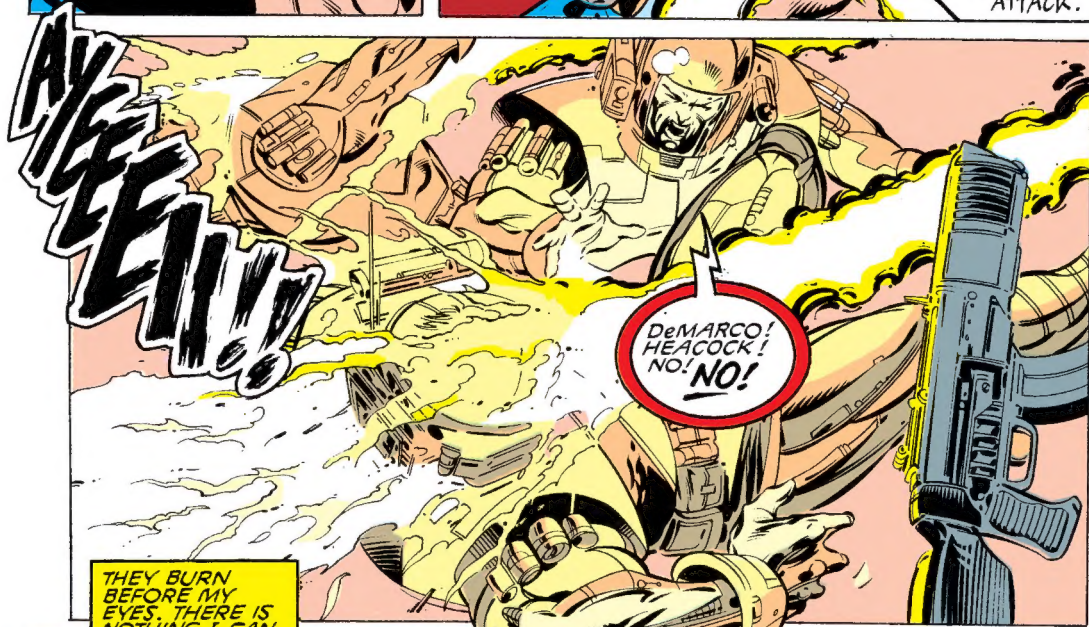
NOT IF WE HAVE A SAY, YOU DON'T!

DeMARCO-- NOT YET--!



A PLASMA CANNON? QUITE NASTY.

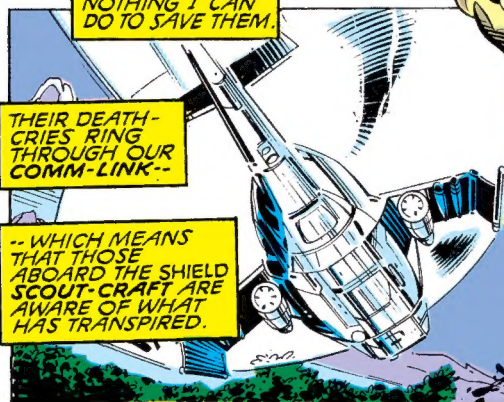
LUCKILY, I CAN TELEKINETICALLY DEFLECT YOUR ATTACK.



AYE!!!

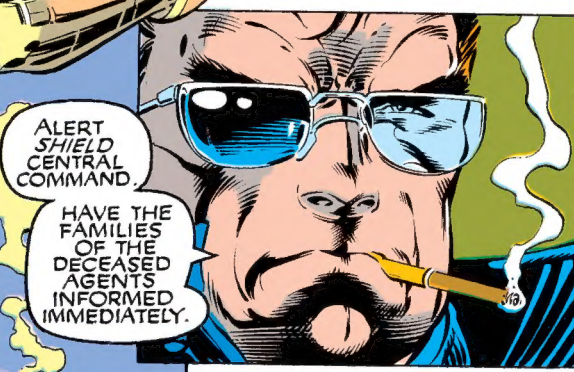
DeMARCO! HEACOCK! NO! NO!

THEY BURN BEFORE MY EYES. THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO TO SAVE THEM.



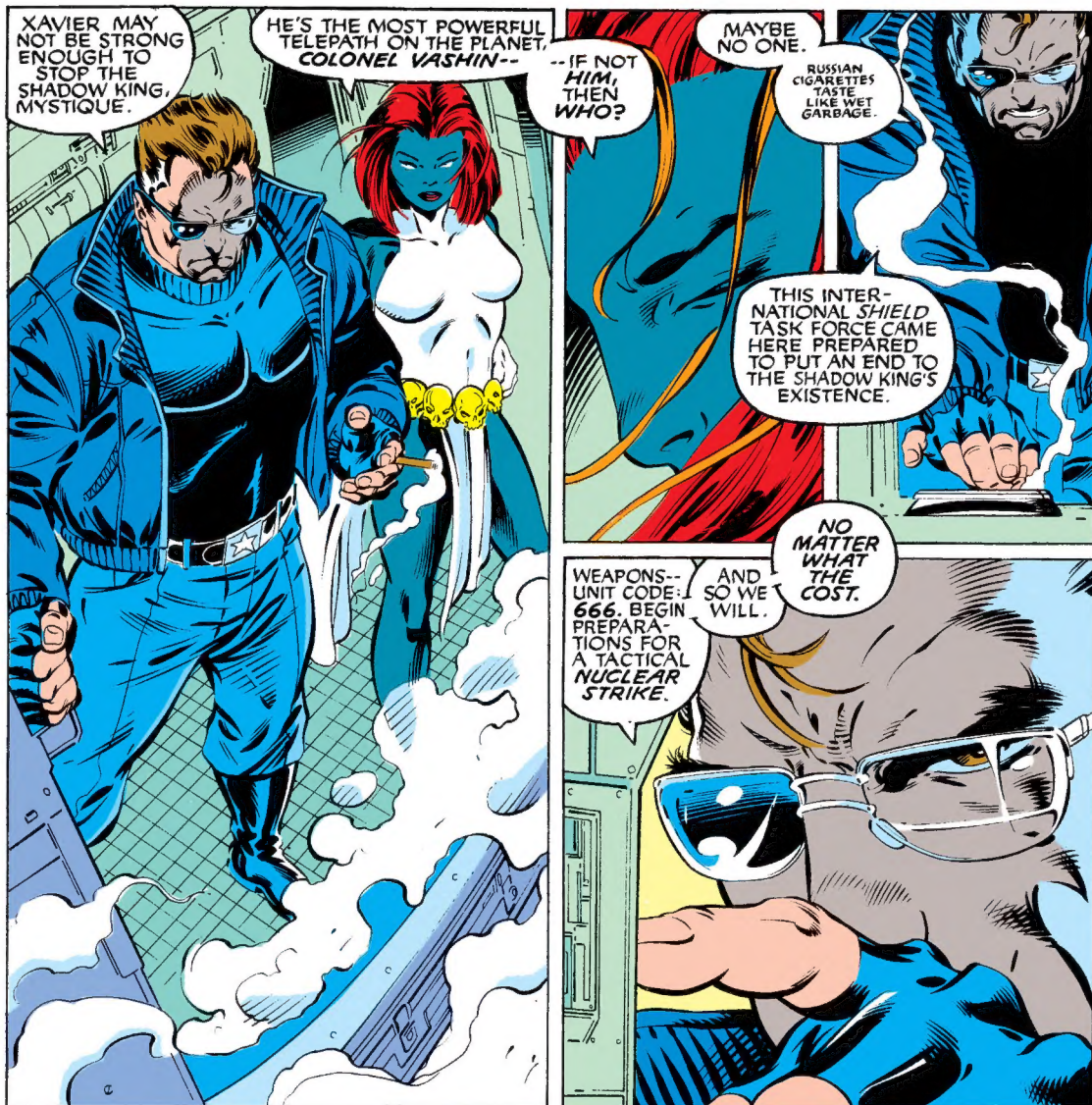
THEIR DEATH-cries RING THROUGH OUR COMM-LINK--

-- WHICH MEANS THAT THOSE ABOARD THE SHIELD SCOUT-CRAFT ARE AWARE OF WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED.



ALERT SHIELD CENTRAL COMMAND.

HAVE THE FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED AGENTS INFORMED IMMEDIATELY.



XAVIER MAY NOT BE STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP THE SHADOW KING, MYSTIQUE.

HE'S THE MOST POWERFUL TELEPATH ON THE PLANET, COLONEL VASHIN--

--IF NOT HIM, THEN WHO?

MAYBE NO ONE.

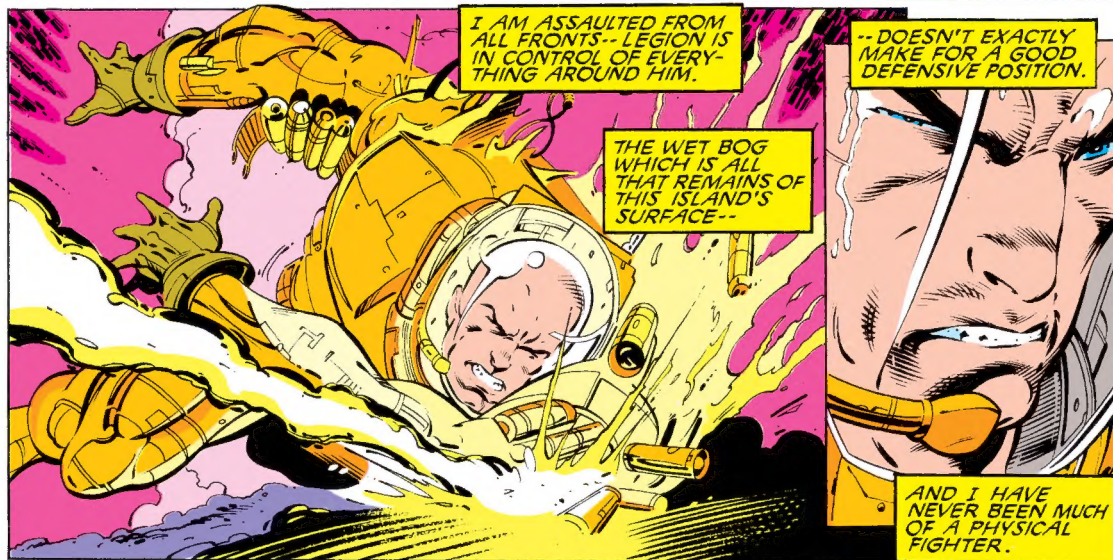
RUSSIAN CIGARETTES TASTE LIKE WET GARBAGE.

THIS INTERNATIONAL SHIELD TASK FORCE CAME HERE PREPARED TO PUT AN END TO THE SHADOW KING'S EXISTENCE.

NO MATTER WHAT THE COST.

WEAPONS-- UNIT CODE: 666. BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR A TACTICAL NUCLEAR STRIKE.

AND SO WE WILL.



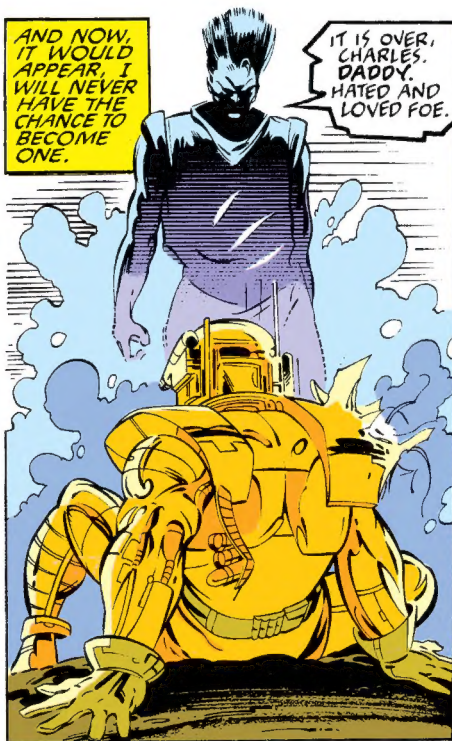
I AM ASSAULTED FROM ALL FRONTS-- LEGION IS IN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING AROUND HIM.

THE WET BOG WHICH IS ALL THAT REMAINS OF THIS ISLAND'S SURFACE--

-- DOESN'T EXACTLY MAKE FOR A GOOD DEFENSIVE POSITION.

AND I HAVE NEVER BEEN MUCH OF A PHYSICAL FIGHTER.

AND NOW, IT WOULD APPEAR, I WILL NEVER HAVE THE CHANCE TO BECOME ONE.



IT IS OVER, CHARLES. DADDY. HATED AND LOVED FOE.

No! IF THERE IS A SHRED OF MY SON LEFT IN YOU, I WILL HELP TO SAVE HIM!
COULD IT BE...



TELEPATHIC PROBE? HMM. SURPRISED, DADDY?

SURPRISED TO FIND THAT YOUR SON ACTUALLY LIKES WHAT I HAVE MADE OF HIM?



IT CAN'T BE-- YOU'RE CORRUPTING HIM-- BODY AND SOUL--



NO, CHARLES-- I HAVE GIVEN HIM SELF-CONTROL--

-- MY PRESENCE HAS UNITED HIS FRACTURED, SCHIZOPHRENIC MIND.



AND IT IS SO FITTING, IS IT NOT, FOR THE HAND WHICH KILLS YOU TO BE THAT OF YOUR TORTURED SON?!



SHKR RKK

IT IS, IRONIC, FITTING, IN A WAY, INEVITABLE, IN ANOTHER.

A PSYCHIC MIND-BURST BUILDS WITHIN ME-- IF I AM TO DIE, THEN THE SHADOW KING WILL DIE WITH ME...



FITTING
ALSO, MADMAN,
THAT THE
MANIPULATOR
OF THE
MIND--

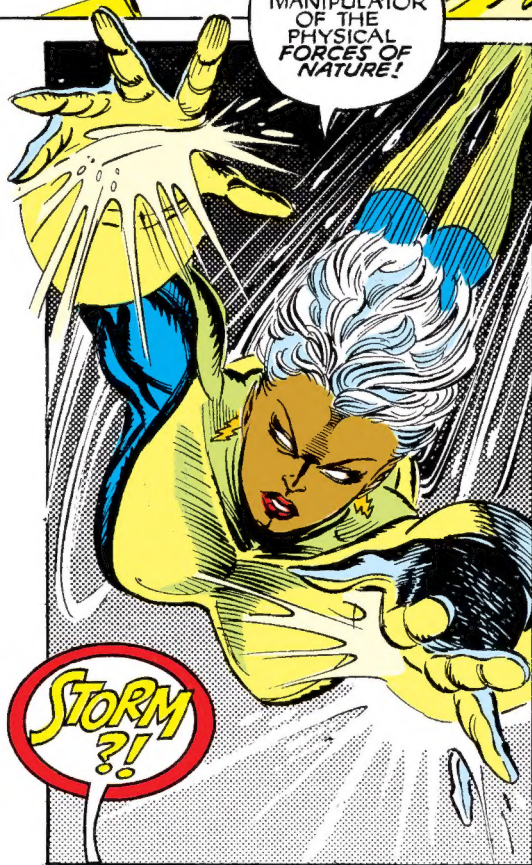
BOOM!

SHZZKRA

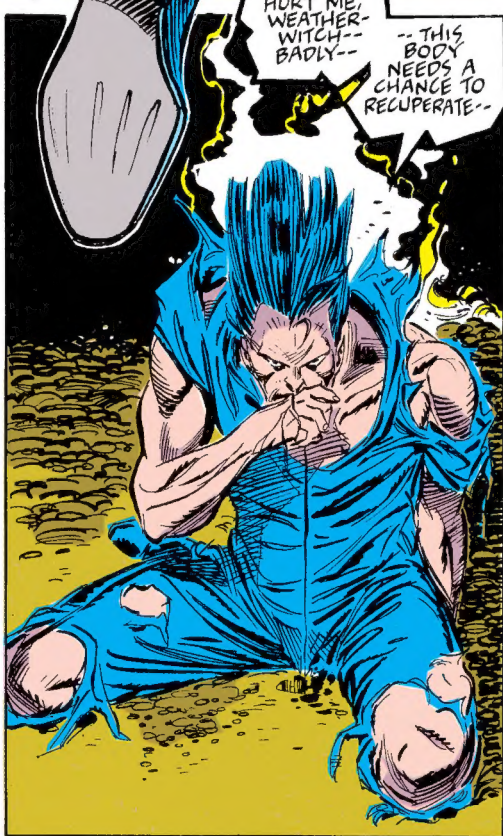
--BE FELLED
BY THE
MANIPULATOR
OF THE
PHYSICAL
FORCES OF
NATURE!

YOU HAVE
HURT ME,
WEATHER-
WITCH--
BADLY--

-- THIS
BODY
NEEDS A
CHANCE TO
RECUPERATE--



STORM
?!





PROFESSOR--
HE'S--

TELE-
KINETICALLY
CLEARING
THE GROUND
BENEATH
US--



--ACCESSING
A HATCHWAY
TO THE
UNDERGROUND
PORTIONS
OF MOIRA'S
LABORATORY

HE HAS
ESCAPED.



WE
NEEDED
THE
RESPITE
AS MUCH
AS HE.

MY THANKS FOR
YOUR ASSISTANCE,
ORORO. WHERE
WERE YOU?

INJURED
AND OUT
OF THE
BATTLE FOR
A WHILE.

THEN
WAITING
FOR THE
PROPER
MOMENT TO
STRIKE.



AND AS
USUAL ...

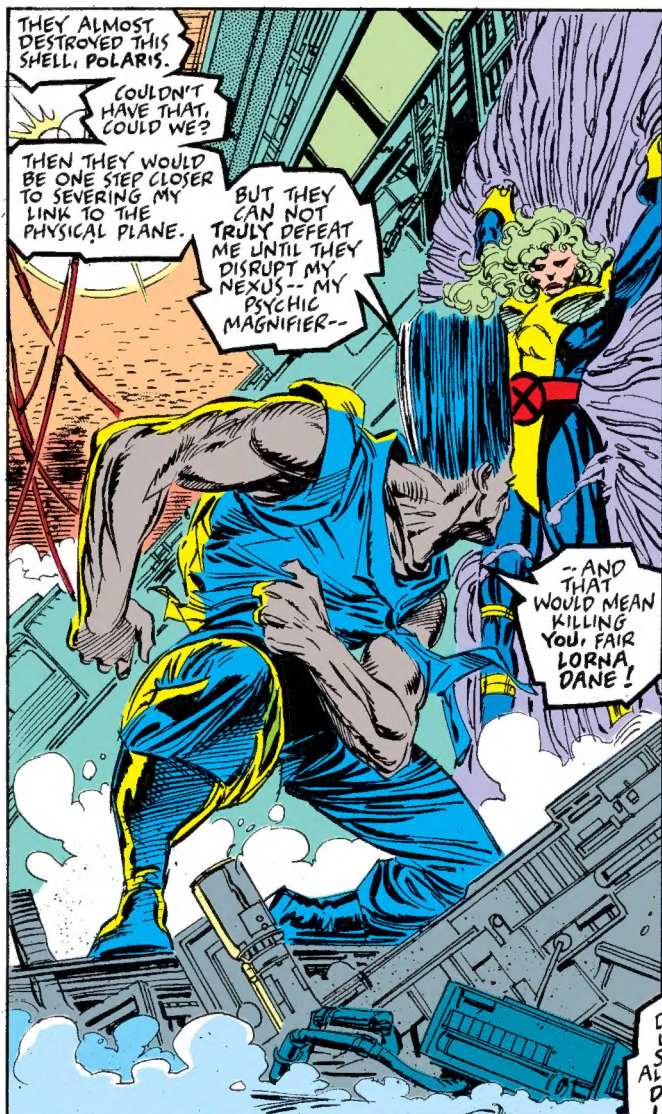
...YOU
PICKED
JUST
THE
RIGHT
TIME.

MY CHILDREN ARE
BACK. OLD AND
NEW. ROGUE,
BANSHEE, FORGE,
CYCLOPS, ICEMAN,
ARCHANGEL,
COLOSSUS, JEAN
GREY, BEAST,
WOLVERINE.

LEGION'S
PHYSICAL
INJURIES
CAUSED HIM
TO RELEASE HIS
HOLD ON US,
PROFESSOR.

WE'RE
READY TO
PUT AN END
TO THIS
ANIMAL.

AND I THINK
I KNOW HOW...



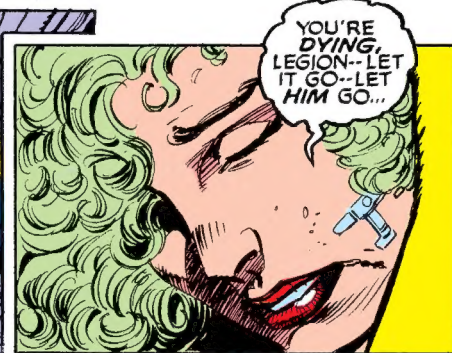
THEY ALMOST DESTROYED THIS SHELL, POLARIS.

COULDN'T HAVE THAT, COULD WE?

THEN THEY WOULD BE ONE STEP CLOSER TO SEVERING MY LINK TO THE PHYSICAL PLANE.

BUT THEY CAN NOT TRULY DEFEAT ME UNTIL THEY DISRUPT MY NEXUS-- MY PSYCHIC MAGNIFIER--

--AND THAT WOULD MEAN KILLING YOU, FAIR LORNA DANE!



YOU'RE DYING, LEGION--LET IT GO--LET HIM GO...



SHUT UP!

SMACK

IT IS NOT OVER UNTIL XAVIER IS DEAD!

ASHES IN THE WIND!



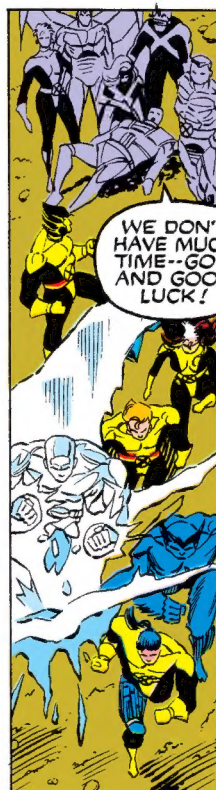
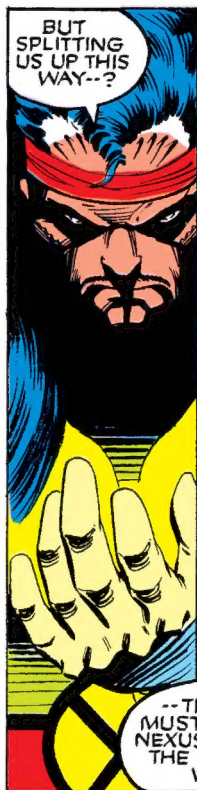
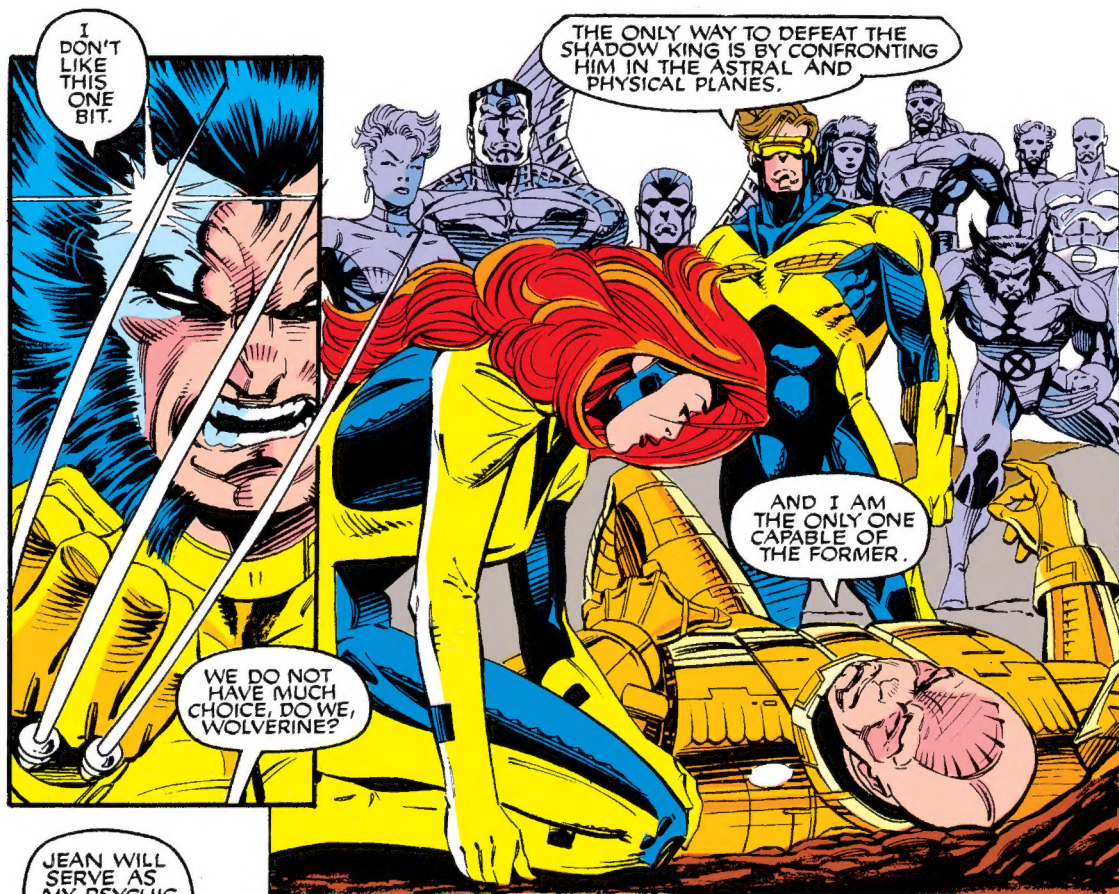
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? ALL OF YOU-- DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

FIND THEM, MY PUPPETS-- I PROTECTED YOU WHEN THE ISLAND ERUPTED--



--AND ENSCONCED YOU IN THE LOWER DEPTHS OF THIS FACILITY FOR A REASON--

--FIND THEM AND DESTROY THEM-- THEN BRING ME XAVIER'S HEAD ON A SPIKE!!





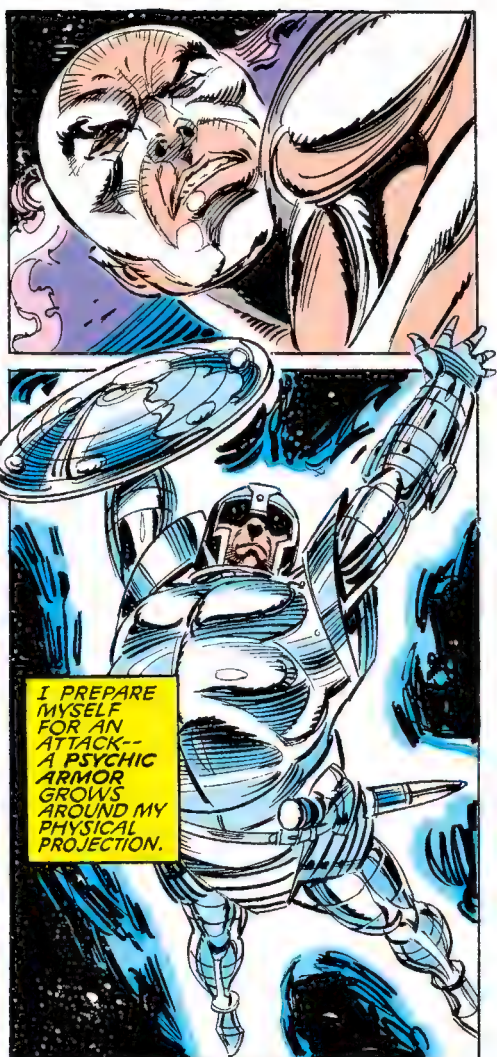
I CLOSE MY EYES AND SLIDE INTO THE SHADOW KING'S TWISTED REALM.

IT IS LIKE PUTTING ON AN OLD PAIR OF SLIPPERS--

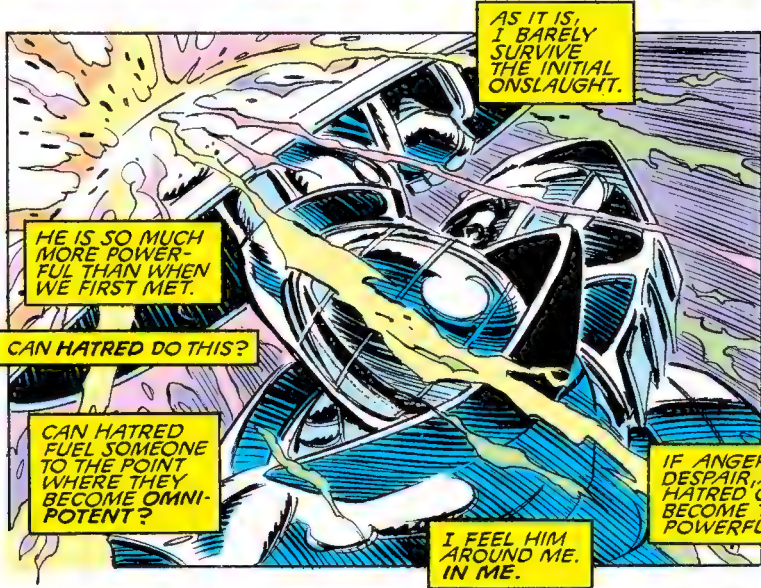
--AND FINDING YOUR TOES SURROUNDED BY INSECT LARVAE.

THIS PLACE, ONCE CHAOTIC IN AN INTRIGUING AND CHALLENGING WAY--

-- IS NOW NOTHING MORE THAN A BLACKENED MIRROR OF THE SHADOW KING'S CORRUPTED SOUL.



I PREPARE MYSELF FOR AN ATTACK-- A PSYCHIC ARMOR GROWS AROUND MY PHYSICAL PROJECTION.



AS IT IS, I BARELY SURVIVE THE INITIAL ONSLAUGHT.

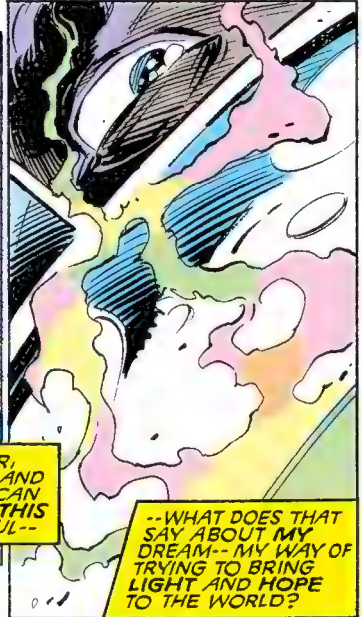
HE IS SO MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN WHEN WE FIRST MET.

CAN HATRED DO THIS?

CAN HATRED FUEL SOMEONE TO THE POINT WHERE THEY BECOME OMNI-
POTENT?

I FEEL HIM AROUND ME. IN ME.

IF ANGER, DESPAIR, AND HATRED CAN BECOME THIS POWERFUL--



--WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT MY DREAM-- MY WAY OF TRYING TO BRING LIGHT AND HOPE TO THE WORLD?



WELCOME
TO MY HOME,
CHARLES.

SO NICE
OF YOU TO
COME, AFTER
HAVING
IGNORED MY
OPEN
INVITATION
FOR SO VERY
LONG.

I ACCEPTED
YOUR
"INVITATION"
ONCE BEFORE.
BLACK HEART.
I DID NOT FIND
YOUR HOME TO
MY LIKING.

OF THAT,
I AM
CERTAIN.

IS IT THE
DECOR OF
WHICH YOU
DO NOT
APPROVE?

OR YOUR HOST
FOR THIS
EVENING'S
ENTERTAINMENT?

OR THE
VERY
REASON
FOR THE
INVITATION?

AS
ALWAYS,
CHARLES,
YOU AND YOUR
KIND ARE SO VAGUE
IN YOUR THOUGHTS
AND DESIRES.

I, ON THE
OTHER HAND, AM
QUITE DIRECT IN
MY INTENTIONS--

--I WISH TO
SEE HATRED AND
ANGER CORRUPT
THE INNOCENT
SHEEP CALLED
HUMANITY!

I WISH TO SEE
YOUR LIFE'S GOAL OF
GLOBAL HARMONY
DASHED!

AND MOST
CHERISHED
OF ALL-- I WISH
TO CLEAN MY
TEETH WITH YOUR
BONES--

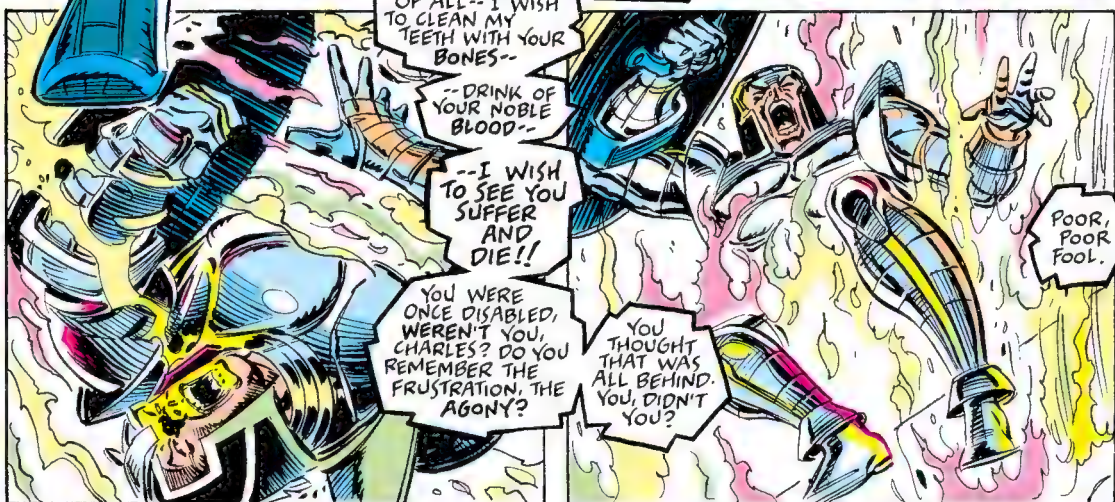
--DRINK OF
YOUR NOBLE
BLOOD--

--I WISH
TO SEE YOU
SUFFER
AND
DIE!!

YOU WERE
ONCE DISABLED,
WEREN'T YOU,
CHARLES? DO YOU
REMEMBER THE
FRUSTRATION, THE
AGONY?

YOU
THOUGHT
THAT WAS
ALL BEHIND
YOU, DIDN'T
YOU?

POOR,
POOR
FOOL.

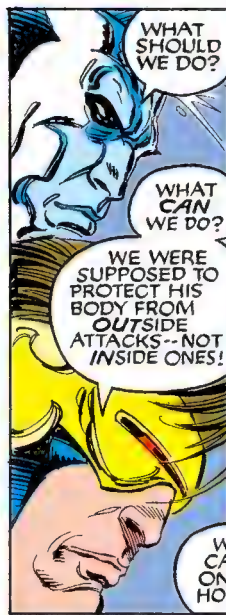




DEAR LORD--
HIS BODY IS
CONVULSING--

--THOSE WERE
HIS BONES--
HIS LEGS ARE
BREAKING!

HIS
PHYSICAL
BODY IS
REACTING
TO THE
PSYCHIC
ASSAULTS!

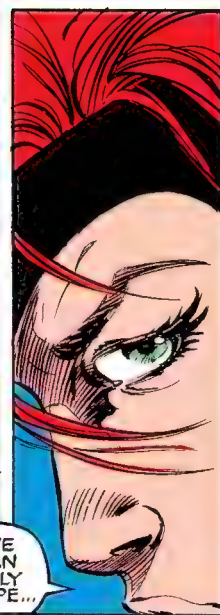


WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO?

WHAT
CAN
WE DO?

WE WERE
SUPPOSED TO
PROTECT HIS
BODY FROM
OUTSIDE
ATTACKS-- NOT
INSIDE ONES!

WE
CAN ONLY
HOPE...



"...THAT THE
OTHERS
SUCCEED IN
ORDER TO
GIVE CHARLES
A CHANCE!"

MOTION
DETECTORS
ARE
PICKING UP
MOVEMENT...

THEY'RE
ENGAGING IN
A PERIMETER
SURROUND...

I
SMELLED
THEM
THREE
MINUTES
AGO.



THEY'RE RIGHT
ON TOP OF US...

LET'S
GO
THEN...



VAW-HOUM

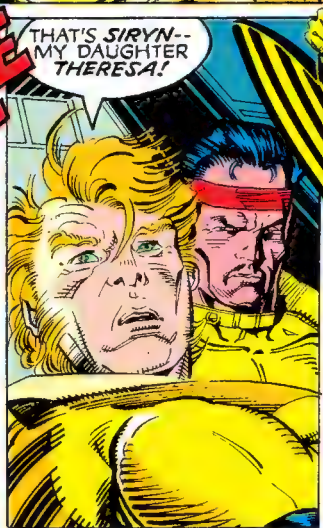


HOMME-- TIME T'BE BACKIN' YOUR WORDS WITH MORE THAN A SOUR GRIN, 'NEY?

GAMBIT!



QUICK, CAJUN. SNEAKY. LET'S PLAY THE GAME...



THAT'S SIRYN-- MY DAUGHTER THERESA!



I'M ON HER!

BE CAREFUL, IRISH-- DON'T LET HER SUCKER YOU INTO AN AMBUSH!

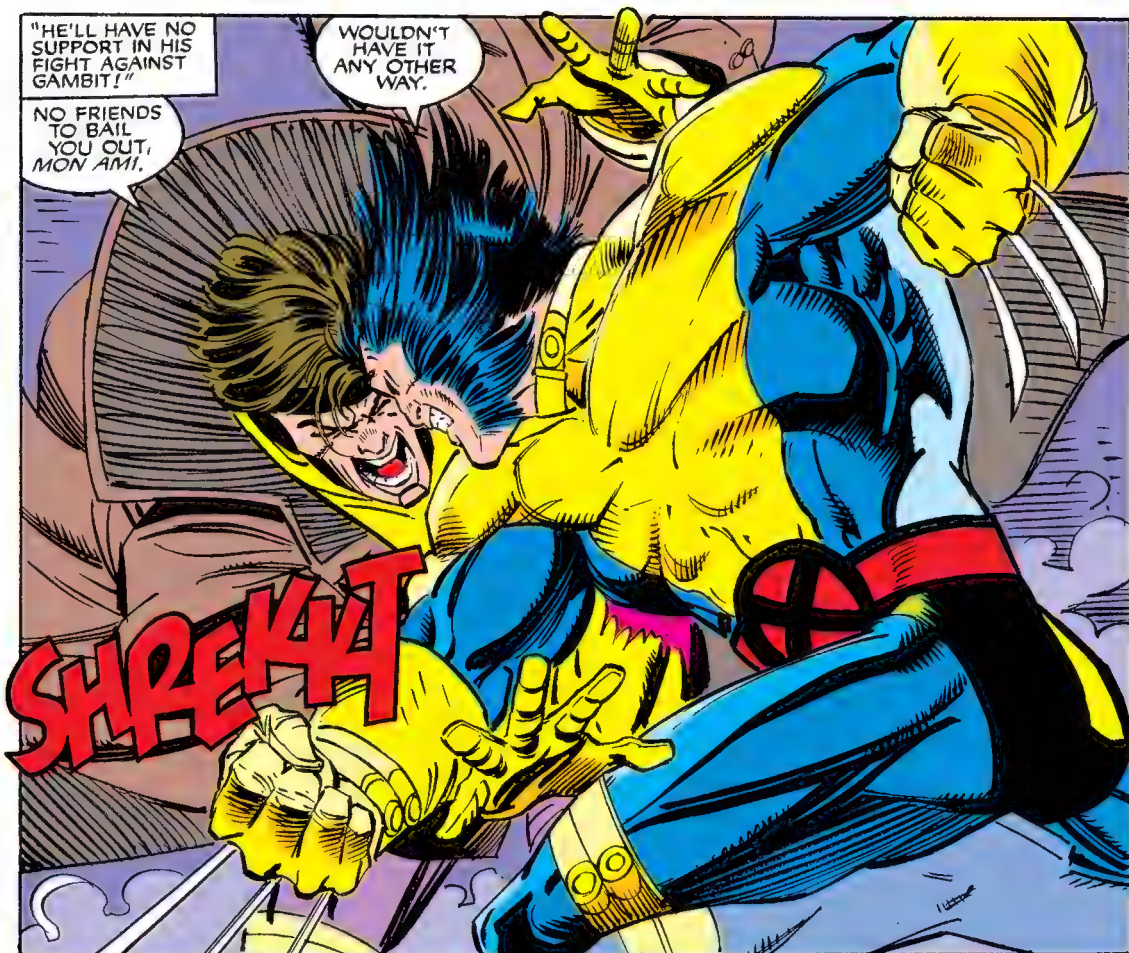


SPEAKING OF WHICH... MADROX IS TRYING TO DO THAT ALL BY HIS LONESOME SELVES!

AN ICE WALL WILL KEEP THE CORRIDOR BLOCKED--

-- AND THE MULTIPLE MEN ON THE ROCKS, AS IT WERE!

SMOOTH, ROBERT, BUT YOU'VE TRAPPED WOLVIE AS WELL!



"HE'LL HAVE NO SUPPORT IN HIS FIGHT AGAINST GAMBIT!"

NO FRIENDS TO BAIL YOU OUT, MON AMI.

WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.

SHREKKT



BEST BE SAYIN' GOOD NIGHT, NOW?

OLD MAN. STILL HURTIN' INSIDE. NOT A REAL FIGHT.

FLAP THOSE GUMS, BOY--



--IT'S WHAT YOU DO BEST--

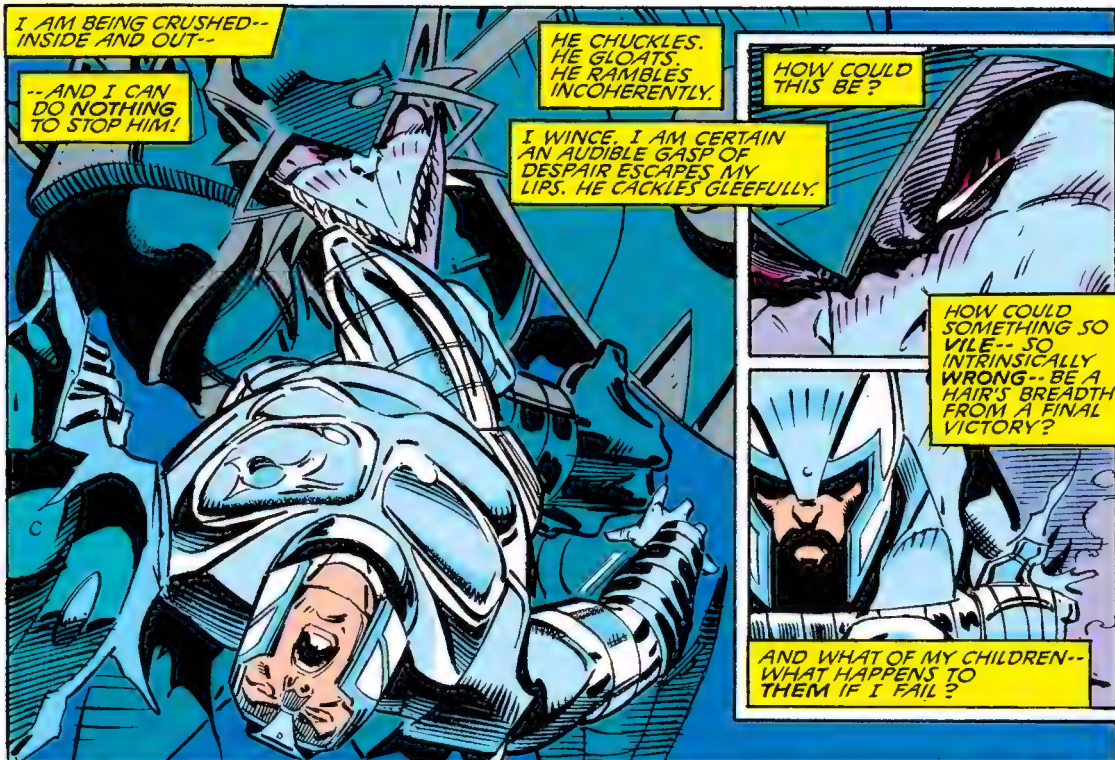
-- BUT WHAT I DO BEST--



-- IS WIN!

YOU'RE PINNED, CREOLE.

DON'T ASK FOR THE THIRD CLAW.



I AM BEING CRUSHED--
INSIDE AND OUT--

-- AND I CAN
DO NOTHING
TO STOP HIM!

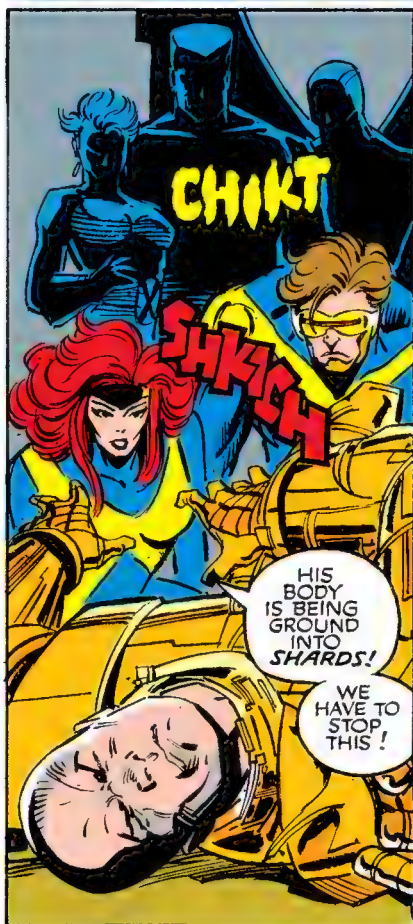
HE CHUCKLES.
HE GLOATS.
HE RAMBLES
INCOHERENTLY.

HOW COULD
THIS BE?

I WINCE. I AM CERTAIN
AN AUDIBLE GASP OF
DESPAIR ESCAPES MY
LIPS. HE CACKLES GLEEFULLY.

HOW COULD
SOMETHING SO
VILE-- SO
INTRINSICALLY
WRONG-- BE A
HAIR'S BREADTH
FROM A FINAL
VICTORY?

AND WHAT OF MY CHILDREN--
WHAT HAPPENS TO
THEM IF I FAIL?



CHIKT

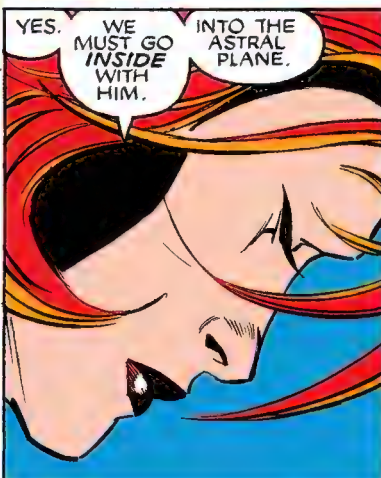
SHKISH

HIS
BODY
IS BEING
GROUND
INTO
SHARDS!

WE
HAVE TO
STOP
THIS!



THERE IS
ONLY ONE
WAY TO
HELP HIM,
ISN'T THERE?



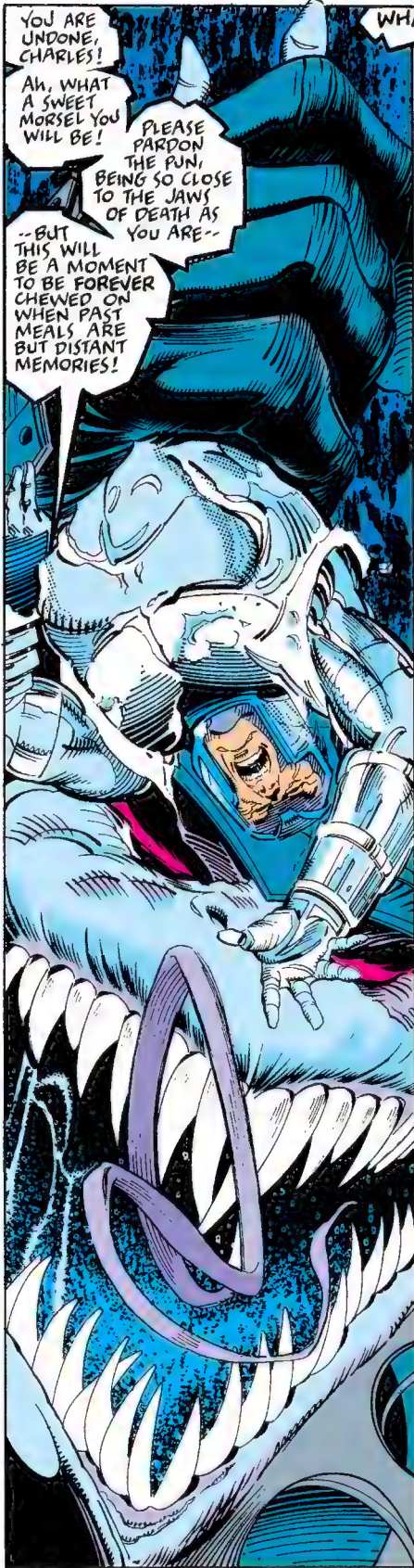
YES. WE
MUST GO
INSIDE
WITH HIM.

INTO THE
ASTRAL
PLANE.

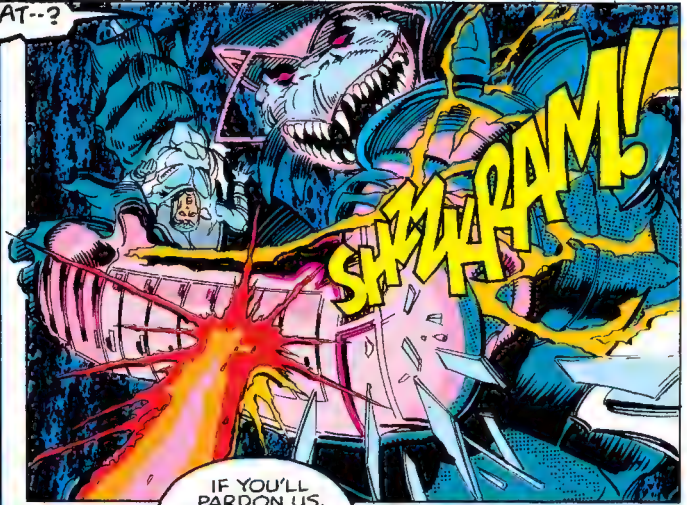


LINK HANDS WITH
ME. I WILL TRY TO
TAKE US THERE.

AND WE CAN
ONLY PRAY THAT
THE OTHERS
PREVENT ANYONE
FROM ATTACKING
OUR DEFENSE-
LESS BODIES...



WHAT--?



AND IN THE
REAL WORLD...

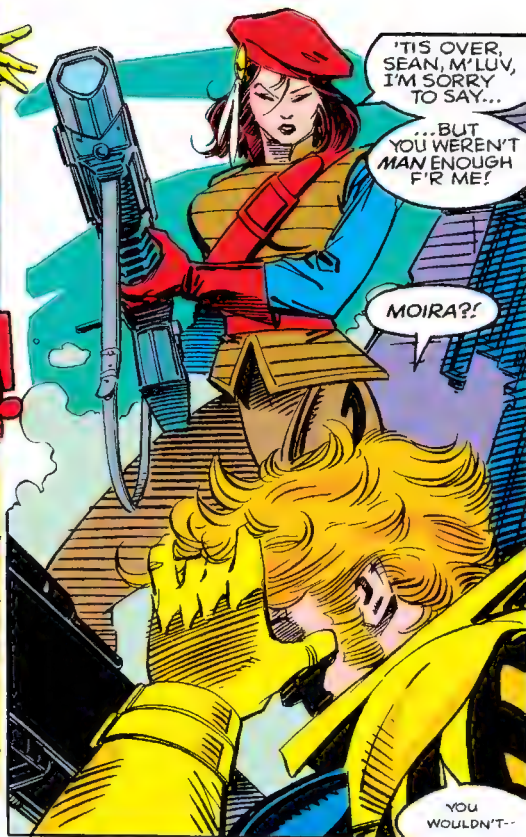
THERESA--
COME OUT OF
HIDIN', WILL YE,
LASS!



'TIS OVER,
SEAN, M'LUV,
I'M SORRY
TO SAY...

...BUT
YOU WEREN'T
MAN ENOUGH
F'R ME!

MOIRA?!



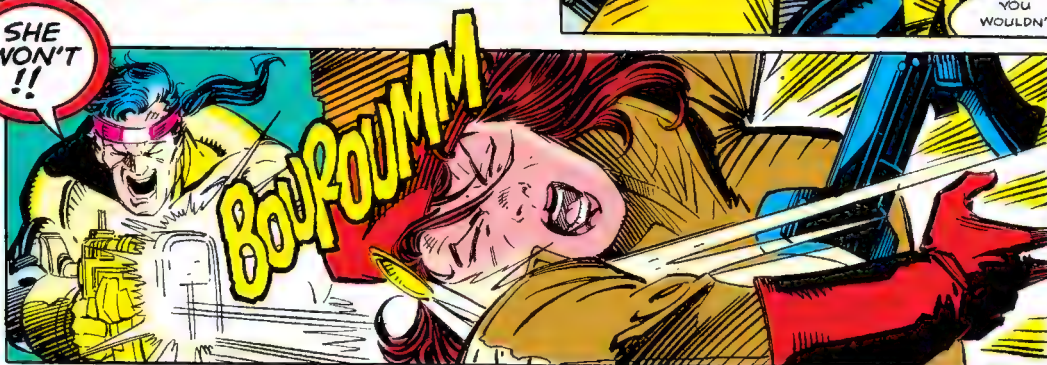
YOU
WOULDN'T--



VAKOOM!

ARRGH!

SHE
WON'T
!!



BOUPOUMM

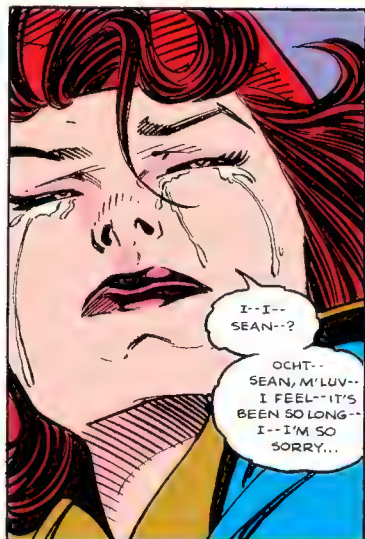
YOU OKAY,
IRISH?



HARDLY,
FORGE,
THE WOMAN
I LOVE
TRIED T'KILL
ME!

DON'T
THEY ALL AT
ONE TIME OR
ANOTHER...

ONE
SECOND--I'M
INJECTING THE
NEURO-
SYNAPTIC
BUFFER...

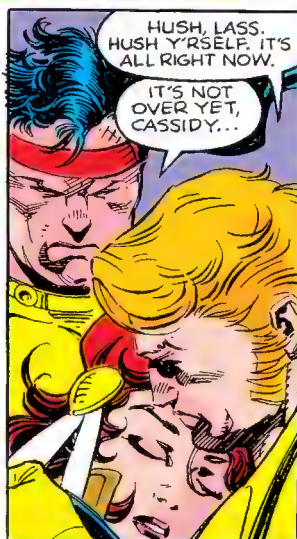


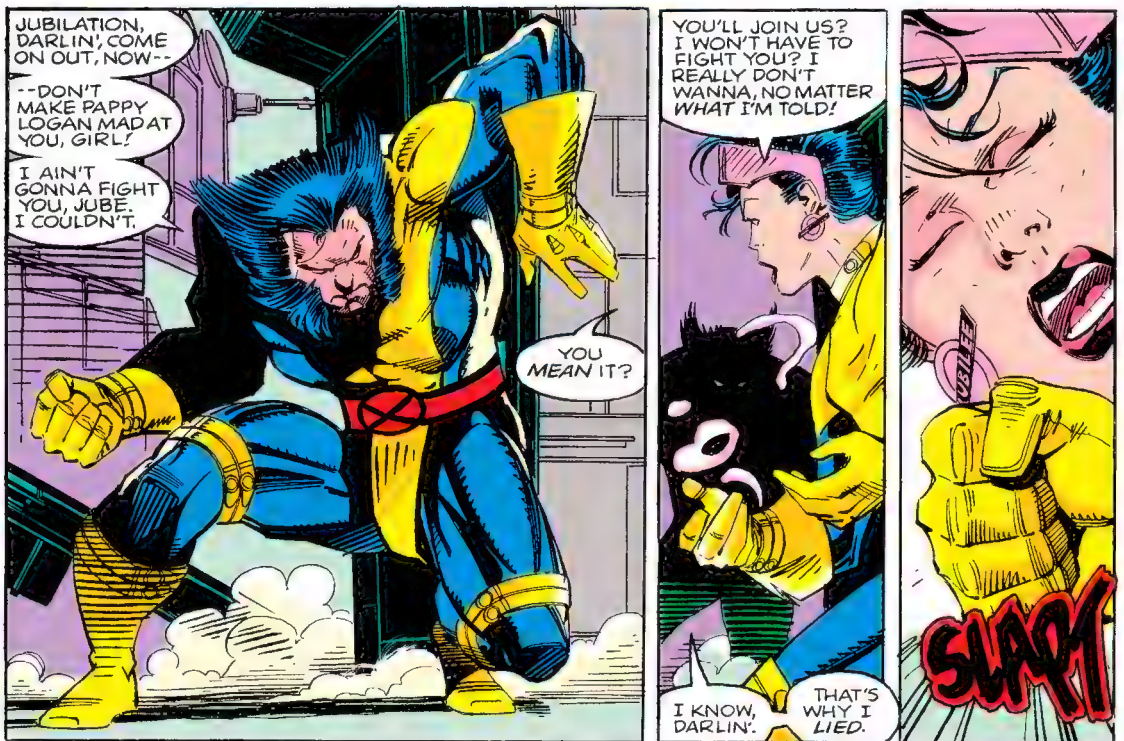
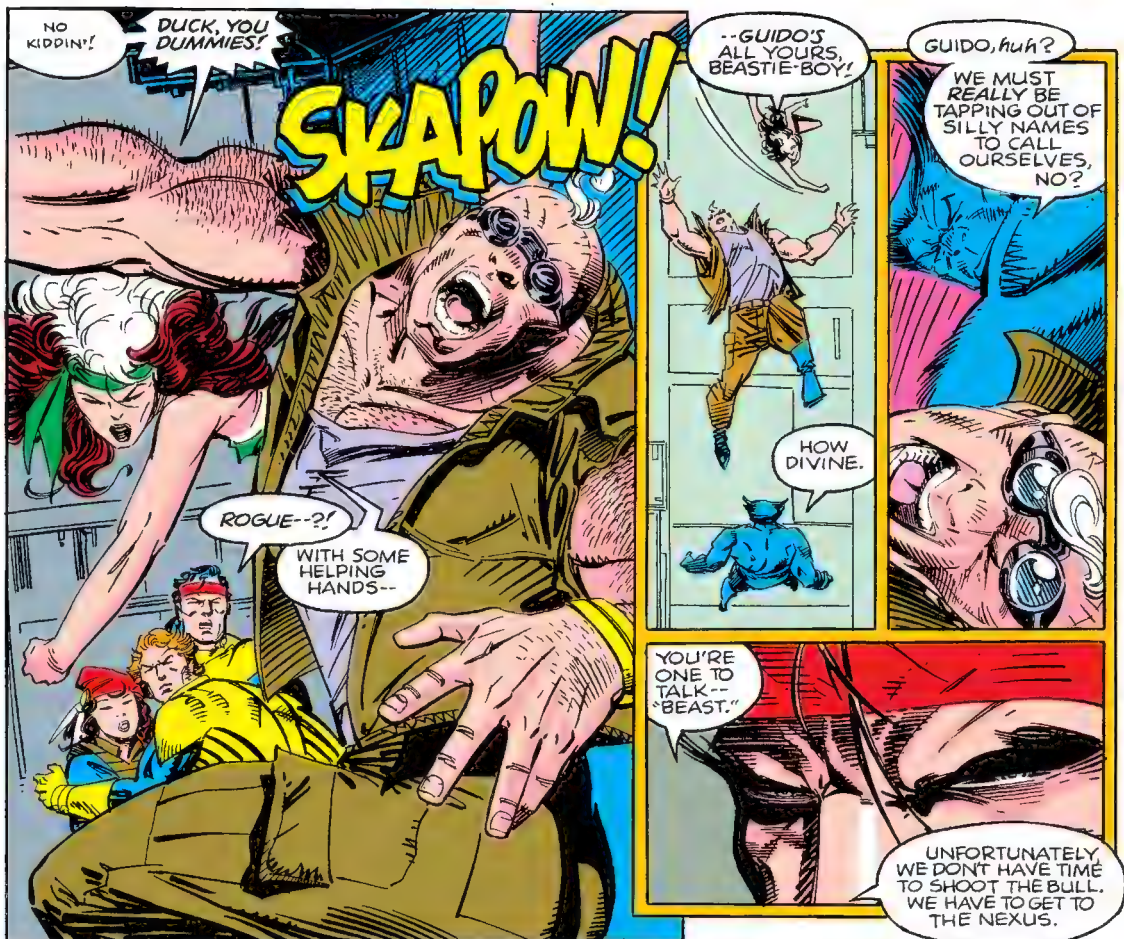
I--I--
SEAN--?

OCHT--
SEAN, M'LUV--
I FEEL--IT'S
BEEN SO LONG--
I--I'M SO
SORRY...

HUSH, LASS.
HUSH Y'RSELF, IT'S
ALL RIGHT NOW.

IT'S NOT
OVER YET,
CASSIDY...





X-MAIL

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP—
357 Park Avenue South — New York, New York — 10018

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear X-People,

I just had to write and tell you how much I am enjoying the book's change in direction. The characters have come alive again (both verbally and visually), lending a little of that old mutant magic to the book!

The recent Savage Land and Shi'ar storylines blew me away! You folks picked up the ball and ran with it! What I specifically have enjoyed about recent issues is as follows:

1) The romantic tension between Rogue and Magneto-- what a couple they would make!

2) The revamped Savage Land mutants--I always knew they could be interesting!

3) Ka-Zar and Nick Fury; two of Marvel's toughest non-super powered characters. These two should be regulars in these pages!

4) Forge's ingenuity and cool head under pressure. Look out, Reed Richards! There's a new brain in town!

5) The fold-out cover (issue #275) by Jim Lee--give this man a raise!!!

6) New looks for Deathbird and Zaladane --phenomenal!

7) The appearance of Gladiator and his Imperial Guard. Give these folks their own limited series! They're terrific! However, you left out my favorite--Hobgoblin. I guess having another shape-shifter in a book filled with Skrulls would have been overkill, huh?

8) Lila Cheney and Guido--I can imagine a million stories that might develop from having Lila around as a supporting character. As for Guido, well...he's just plain cool!

9) And finally, my favorite current development--Xavier is back! At last, the X-Men's mentor is back in charge! This is the moment I have been waiting for; Xavier will start to make some sense out of everything. Down with the Shadow King! Down with Apocalypse! Down with Mr. Sinister and the Marauders, the Reavers, Hodge and the Magistrates, the Lords Cardinal! I have the feeling that the X-Men are going to start to win again!

Xavier's return will put the mutant's house in order. As Logan might say, "About flamin' time!" The man who started it all will clean house and we have front-row seats!!

I'd better stop myself now, or I'll continue to heap praise and suggestions upon you folks until my hands permanently cramp into typing position!

Until it's revealed that Darth Vader

is Wolverine's father, Make Mine Marvel!!!

Tony Midyett

628 N. 6th St. Apt. #1

Paducah, KY 42001

We're glad you appreciate the changes we've initiated, Tony. Believe us, it involved a lot of hard work.

We, like you, think the return of Professor X is a signal of a return to the basics that have always made UNCANNY X-MEN a special book!

Dear X-Crew,

Although I've only been reading UNCANNY X-MEN for slightly more than a year, I've grown very attached to the characters except for Banshee and I enjoyed your work very much. Chris Claremont is a brilliant writer, Jim Lee a brilliant artist, Scott Williams a brilliant inker, Pat Brosseau and Tom Orzechowski the brilliant letterers, Glynis Oliver and Joe Rosas the brilliant colorists, Bob Harras and Suzanne Gaffney (especially since she guest-starred in one ish--okay one page--okay, okay, one panel) are great too. Did I miss anyone? I hope not.

However I would like to request, comment, complain and query on a few matters. Chris, a) please bring back Colossus, b) have a few solo tales now and then and c) when the heck is the 'Lady Deathstrike vs. Wolverine' plotline going to continue, or was that featured in the Wolverine series? Please, Chris, don't offer any plots to other series--not all of us have full pockets, you know? Also, develop Banshee a little more.

You know you're next don't you, Mr. Jim Lee? Sure you do. A compliment: Jim, your art style is meticulous, powerful and very solid but (comment) the faces are very much the same. Your team-up with Whilce Portacio on ish #267 was superb!

As for Joe Rosas, I love your coloring. Let it be known that colors and letters are also essential in a comic book.

Lastly, here is a report: My country, Malaysia, located above Singapore (very near to the fictitious Madripoor) has many comic book fans and let me stress that UNCANNY X-MEN is among the most popular here.

Chang Yoong Chia
Malaysia

And we're glad to hear it, Chang. Thanks!

Dear X-People,

Now onto another subject--that of

Magneto. Please do not have him return as Xavier's arch enemy in a straight good/bad scenario. The personality, depth and complexity this character has received over the last decade or so is just too good to go without. Come to think about it what about a Magneto limited series? Come to think of it again, after the Savage Land tale, what about a Magneto/Rogue limited series.

Here's some quick thoughts on the others:

a) Wolverine is now overexposed, overused and an appearance by him isn't as special as it used to be.

b) Jubilee--sorry, don't like her. She's a typical 'I can do anything as well as the grown-ups, if not better' kid. A good comparison to her would be Wesley Crusher from the Star Trek television show.

c) Gambit--I like him but at the moment he appears to be too bloody perfect at everything.

d) The others...give Storm back her mohawk, more of Lila, give Polaris her magnetic powers back, eradicate Jean Grey, let Scott stay married to Madelyne and I'll be exceedingly happy instead of very happy.

Ian Ward.

2 Beech Cottage

East Sussex

England

Hey, X-ophiles, big news! You can meet Chris Claremont, Jim Lee, Whilce Portacio, Scott Williams and a lot of other folks involved in the creation of the X-MEN titles at two conventions this summer! The first will be held at San Francisco's Hyatt Regency Hotel on Aug. 17-18th, and then Los Angeles celebrates on Aug. 24-25th at the L.A. Airport Hilton.

For more info, call (213) 676-4460 after 7PM, Pacific time.

NEXT MONTH :

It all begins! You must read X-FACTOR #70 for the epilogue to this issue's finale. Then make way for the birth of the new Marvel masterpiece, X-MEN #1! It's the comics' event of decade (and it's only 1991...) brought to you by Chris Claremont, Jim Lee, and Scott Williams! Join us as Professor Xavier forms not one, but two, new teams of mutants as Magneto returns! And join us here, in UNCANNY X-MEN #281 as art team Whilce Portacio and Art Thibert sign up just in time for the Sentinels put in an appearance! And we cannot forget to mention the birth of a new team in X-FACTOR #71, with the creative force of Peter David and Larry Stroman! And finally, check out the third issue of X-FORCE, by Rob Liefeld, guest starring Spider-Man!

The Marvel Mutant Renaissance is on!!

**MEET
15
MORE**



Laurie Van Zanten, 30
Abbotsford, BC

Benjamin Pierce, 42
Atlanta, GA

Sol-Ho Morales, 13
Tijuana, Mexico

Norman Van Zanten, 32
Abbotsford, BC

Arnold Devillena, 20
Bonita, CA

Rael Benall, 10
Tijuana, Mexico

Greg Weiser, 16
San Diego, CA

James Brown, 20
San Diego, CA

Stan Shumlick, 26
Glendale, CA

Jason Bustria, 17
San Diego, CA

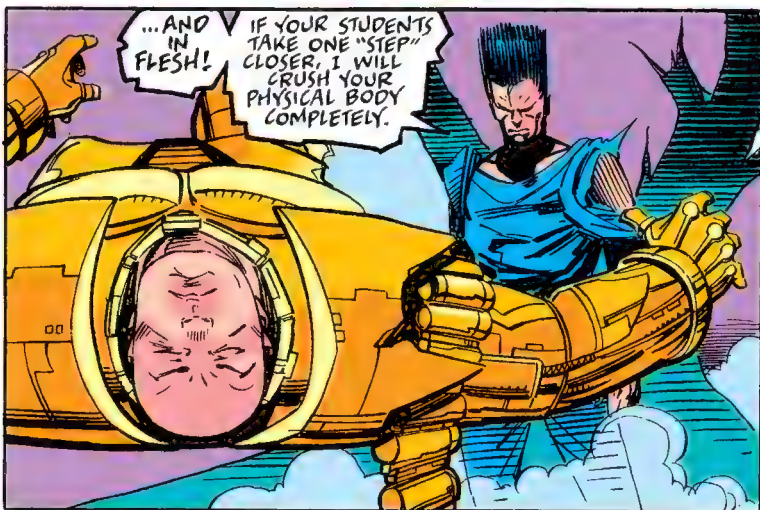
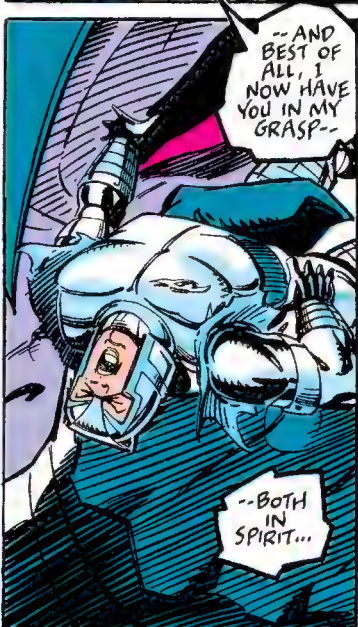
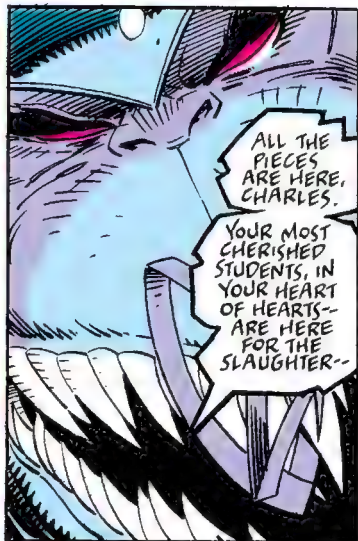
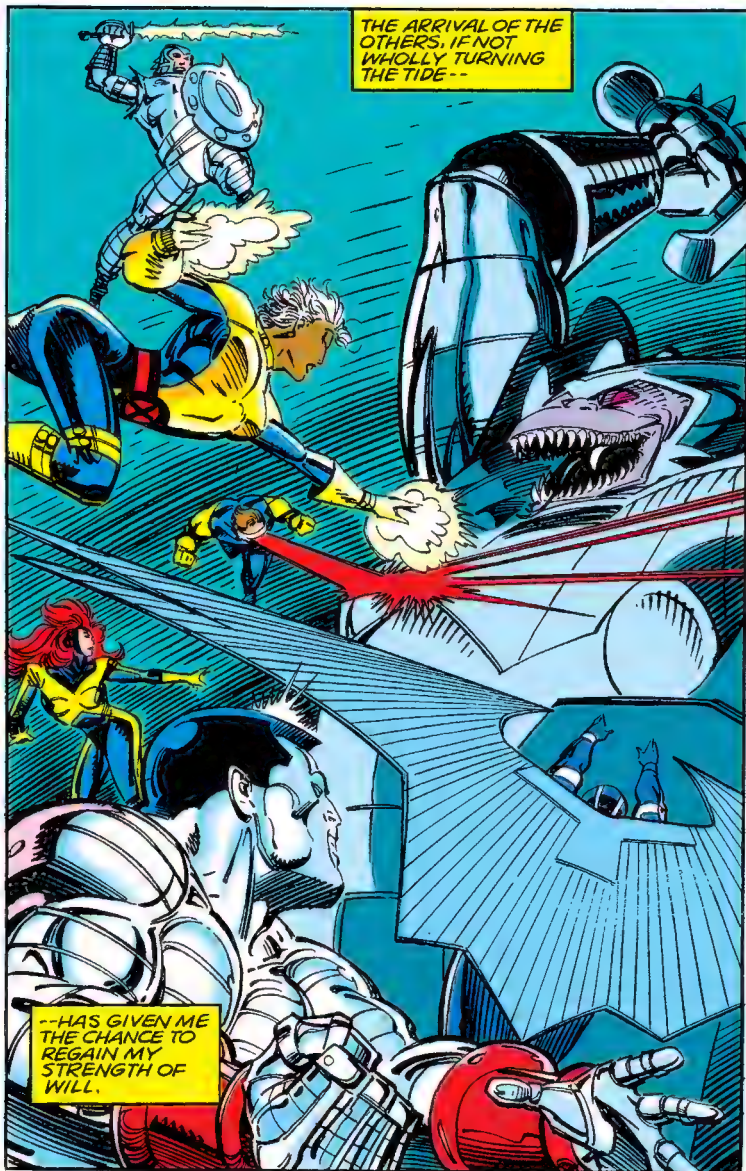
Luis H. Rosales, 15
Tijuana, B.C. Mexico

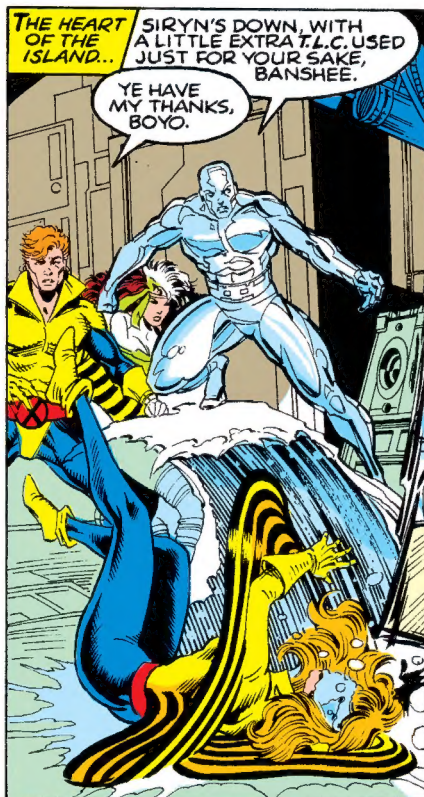
Dennis Canel, 25
Indio, CA

Don Blisco, 17
San Diego, CA

Franllich Morarz, 18
Tijuana, B.C. Mexico

David Epps, 19
Palm Desert, CA





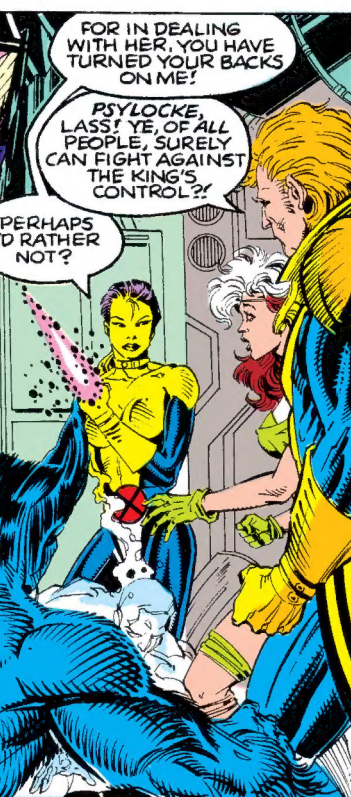
THE HEART OF THE ISLAND...

YE HAVE MY THANKS, BOYO.



AND MINE!

ZAK!



FOR IN DEALING WITH HER, YOU HAVE TURNED YOUR BACKS ON ME!

PSYLOCKE, LASS! YE, OF ALL PEOPLE, SURELY CAN FIGHT AGAINST THE KING'S CONTROL?!

PERHAPS I'D RATHER NOT?



WE SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR THIS TÊTE A TÊTE, PEOPLE!

GOOD POINT, IRISH.



COME TO THINK OF IT...



...AFTER I USE THE SYNAPTIC SCRAMBLER ON PSYLOCKE...



...I CAN USE HER PSYCH-BLADE ON POLARIS!

AAE!



I FEEL THE NEXUS
TORN ASUNDER.
FOR THE SHADOW
KING, IT IS THE
SEVERING OF HIS
LIFE'S BLOOD. I
REJOICE THAT MY
X-MEN HAVE
BROKEN THE LINK.

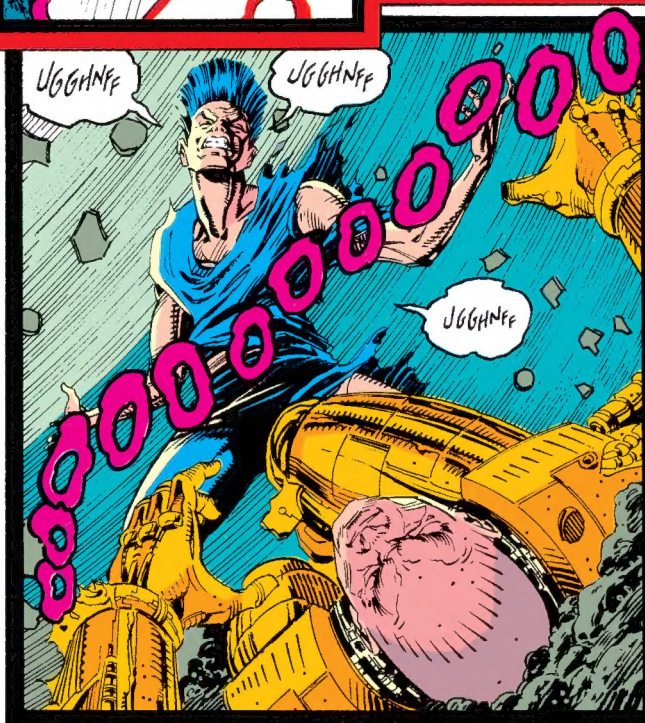
THE ENERGY RELEASED
FROM THE SHADOW
KING'S FINAL DISSIPATION
IS NEARLY OVERWHELMING.

WE ARE CAUGHT LIKE
FLOTSAM IN THE
RUSHING TIDE.



I GUIDE JEAN AS WE
DESPERATELY ABSORB
WHAT WE CAN OF THE
RAMPANT PSYCHIC
ENERGIES...

...TOGETHER WE ACT AS
A SHIELD FOR THE OTHERS.
NAKED, THEIR MINDS
COULD NOT COPE WITH
THIS ONSLAUGHT.



I WOULD WEEP FOR HIM, WERE
THERE TIME... BUT THERE WAS
NEVER TIME FOR DAVID... AND I MUST
GUIDE MY STUDENTS OUT OF
DANGER, AND INTO THE LIGHT.



WE'RE OUT!

WE'RE ALIVE! WE DID IT!

I FELT IT ALL DESTROYED! THE SHADOW KING, THE ASTRAL PLANE, EVERYTHING!

JEAN, MY GOD! THE PROFESSOR!

UGGH



DO NOT FEAR, SCOTT... SURPRISINGLY... I AM STILL ALIVE...

THE SHADOW KING IS GONE, THIS TIME HIS MADNESS IS TRULY FINISHED.

AT THE END, I OFFERED HIM A CHANCE FOR REDEMPTION... BUT HE CHOSE THE VOID.

WE HAVE WON, MY X-MEN. THE DREAM HAS NOT DIED.



BUT AT WHAT PRICE, PROFESSOR?



IT WORKED. SONUVAGUN. PSYCH-BLADE SHORT-CIRCUITED THE NEXUS COMPLETELY.

POLARIS'S BEEN THROUGH A WRINGER-- BUT SHE'S ALIVE!

IS IT MY IMAGINATION OR DOES SHE LOOK LIKE SHE'S SHRUNK?



QUIET NOW, JUBILATION.

YOU'VE SEEN THE DARK SIDE O' YOURSELF, GIRL. IT'S NOT A PRETTY SIGHT, I KNOW. JUST LET IT GO.

BEIN' AN X-MAN AIN'T NEVER EASY.



PROFESSOR, MOIRA AND THE OTHERS...?

THEY ARE WELL. SCARRED IN SPIRIT, BUT THEY WILL RECOVER.

AND YOU, SIR?

SADLY MY FATE IS A DIFFERENT ONE. MY BACK IS SHATTERED, A PARTING GIFT FROM THE SHADOW KING.

...IT APPEARS... IF I AM EVER TO ACHIEVE MY DREAM...

...I WILL NEED ALL OF YOU... TO WALK ME THERE.

THE END, AND THE BEGINNING.



MINUTEMEN

Bluntman